

**[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Bowland R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Bowland (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1919

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BOWLAND  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REPORT**

For 1919.

W. HODGSON ROSS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Meadow Bank,  
Chatburn,  
April 3rd, 1920.

THOS. STONES, Printer, Castle Street, Clitheroe.

To the Honorable the President of the Senate  
the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Representatives

of the Senate and House of Representatives  
of the United States of America  
in Executive Session  
at the City of Washington  
this 1st day of January 1890

Downland Rural District Council.

## To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report. It was rather late in the year before I was able to resume my duties; the consequence is that it has, in some instances, been rather difficult to get complete data, and I may be unable to give full facts in all cases.

It is necessary, owing to the changed conditions, to show a more active spirit in dealing with the various branches of Public Health. This is not at all surprising, as some of the questions are certainly most urgent and concern the happiness and well-being of the people, both of which are necessary to get the contentment required to lift us out of the unsettled state in which the country appears to be at present. It is only natural, after the tremendous war which is now terminated, for us to hope that conditions may be considerably improved.

I hope the questions may be very favourably considered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. HODGSON ROSS.

Meadow Bank,

Chatburn,

April 3rd, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Council.

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Yours faithfully,

W. Hodgson Ross

W. HODGSON ROSS

Meadow Bank,  
Chalbury,  
April 2nd, 1920.

Bowland Rural District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health.

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Gentlemen,

The Rural District of Bowland is a large and scattered one, and is included in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Limestone is the mineral chiefly found, but large tracts of the district are of a peaty nature.

The two main rivers in the District are the Ribble and the Hodder. The latter runs the greater part of its length through the centre of the District; the former divides it from the County of Lancaster; these two rivers form this boundary for seven or eight miles. In certain parts of the District several other small streams, which mostly branch off from the River Ribble, form the dividing line between the two administrative areas.

The District has an area of 83,343 acres, and measures about 14 miles from north to south and 19 miles from east to west.

The 1911 Census gave the population as 5,357, and the number of inhabited houses as 1,150: the density of the population therefore being 4.6 per house. This is not excessive, but when the number of houses with two bedrooms is taken into account, the figure does not appear so agreeable. The population is estimated to be 5,090.

During the year there has been a big increase in the production of milk, which is sent to the large towns. The District is chiefly concerned in agriculture.

There are three mills in the District, and from one of the villages numerous people find employment at a neighbouring mill which is just situated in the County of Lancaster, on the other side of the Ribble.

The District is practically void of all poor-law relief, and in the few necessitous cases where it may be given, it is entirely due to the loss of the breadwinner or some other unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances.

All cases that need urgent surgical attention are usually taken to Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Improvement might be made in the aid given to these cases being transferred to Blackburn.

## WATER.

In dealing with the water supply of the District, one has to give the source of the water supply to the individual villages which constitute the District.

The Corporation of Clitheroe carries its water from the moorland above Grindleton and supplies, on its way, Great Mytton, Grindleton, West Bradford and Bank Bottoms. This is a very satisfactory supply.

Waddington has a plentiful supply, which it gets from Fearcer Brook; a purer supply, however, would be obtained from Cuttock Clough.

The supply at Bashall Eaves is good, and is collected into tanks before it is distributed to the different parts of the township.

Sawley has a plentiful supply, which is chiefly spring water. Its chief disadvantage is that it is not laid on to any of the houses. The village, I agree, is very scattered,

but this would not be a big drawback, as it would enable the inhabitants to have a freer supply and would be more advantageous in every way.

There are two supplies for Gisburn, both of spring water, and very satisfactory.

The supply at Rimington and Stopper Lane is derived from springs and collected in tanks; it is good and plentiful.

It is spring water at Dalehead; from this place the Fyde Water Board is contemplating carrying water.

Holden has an excellent supply of spring water.

The water at Bolton-by-Bowland is gathered into a reservoir from a small brook. A few years ago this brook was liable to contamination, but is now fenced in. It certainly has improved the supply, but it is not quite so excellent as it would be if a source of spring water could be found.

There is often a great shortage at Paythorne, which has no springs. Gisburn Forest often suffers in a similar way. To overcome the shortage in the latter district a scheme was improvised some years ago, but for some reason or other the work was never commenced. Had this been done, the water could have been extended to Paythorne—a distance of seven miles, which would have enabled both townships to get a satisfactory and plentiful supply. The consequence is that, at present these two areas have now only a supply from shallow wells, troughs and pumps.

Slaidburn, Newton and Newsholme are supplied in a similar manner. There would be a great difficulty in dealing with the latter place owing to its being so scattered and sparsely populated.

I do not consider this supply in any way fulfils modern conditions, and the water supply being so important, I hope something in the not very distant future will be done to remedy this serious defect. There would not be the least difficulty in getting water laid on to each house at Slaidburn; it has several sources of supply all over the village



and a scheme here could easily be planned. It would not be easy to deal with Newton, which has all its three springs at a lower level than a large number of the houses. Several of the farmhouses could have a more satisfactory supply. I have one in mind now, the only supply it has being from a brook which is open to serious contamination.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Ribble and Hodder suffer very little from pollution, and this is chiefly from cesspools, etc.

There was a scheme at Grindleton for sewerage of the village. This would have remedied the pollution of the Ribble objected to by the West Riding Rivers Board. Unfortunately, owing to the war, the scheme has been in abeyance.

Complaints have been made that a brook was being polluted by the Withgill Piggeries. I understand that during my absence several visits were made. I visited the place on May 22nd, and found new bacteria beds were in course of formation, and it was hoped that these might overcome the difficulty. I understand that it has been inspected by the West Riding Fisheries Board. Since resuming work I have visited it again in company with Dr. Kaye, the County Medical Officer.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been no new developments during the year. Grindleton requires sewerage.

The Sanitary Inspector estimates that an additional acre of irrigation land is required at Waddington.

The villages sewerage in the district are Gisburn, Waddington, Bolton-by-Bowland, and Holden. There is a settling tank at Holden, but none at the other three villages.

At several of the outlying farmhouses several sink wastes are still needing disconnection.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are still numerous privies with open middens. The number with covered middens is 450. In the district, the number of pail closets is 500, water closets 200, and waste-water closets 10. There has been no reconstruction of privies during the year, and no additional closets have been provided.

As no new houses have been built in the district during the year, no new closets were made under this heading.

## SCAVENGING.

The work is done by your Council. Newton, in addition, has during the year come into the scheme.

The estimated total cost is £227; for 1918 it was £207.

There is no destructor in the district.

There are six tips, and the total annual cost is £90.

In addition to the above outlying farmhouses are dealt with by the respective tenants.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Forty inspections were made. Four informal notices were made and complied with. No statutory notices were served.

The total number of nuisances reported was eight, of which five were abated. At the end of 1918 there were three unabated.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There were two knackers' yards. One has now been closed. Twelve inspections were made, and both were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

## SCHOOLS.

Three of the schools in the district were closed during the year owing to infectious disease; these were Lane Ends,

Whitewell, and Bolton-by-Bowland. Lane Ends school was closed from September 11th to September 29th, owing to an epidemic of Measles; on former date 15 out of 27 scholars were present.

In a letter dated September 18th the Head Teacher of Whitewell School wrote stating that seven families out of 12 who had children attending school were affected with whooping cough. It was decided to close the school from September 20th for three weeks.

There was an epidemic of measles at Bolton-by-Bowland which affected the attendance at the school. The closure was from October 29th to November 19th. As the epidemic had not quite subsided on the latter date—it was reported that eight families still were affected with the disease—there was an extended closure until November 24th.

I, after taking charge of my work, received a report from the Headmistress of Grindleton School. She stated that only 17 out of 53 scholars were present. There were six cases of Measles in the village, and these affected six separate families, which means the total possible attendance should have been 47; there is a marked difference between this and actual attendance of 17.

I consider that there ought to be some special reason for closing a school, and it was lacking here; besides, the Christmas holidays were only seven days from the date of my visit. Apparently, many parents, as soon as they hear of any case of acute infectious disease, immediately keep their children away. I suppose there is some reason for an idea of this sort, but at the same time there is no reason for extremes. One meets people who, as long as their children are improving satisfactorily, do not exercise due care in keeping their children from mixing with others. This is the other extreme. No doubt the latter is much the worse, but I do think that careful thought and tact is needed by parents, and stage-fright is not warranted. One often finds that the people who needlessly keep the children from attending school are not so careful in keeping them properly isolated for the

recognised period according to the infectious disease. I think it essential for the layman to know the period of incubation, *i.e.*, the period it takes before signs of the disease appear after contact with an actual case of infectious disease, and all other important details should be known by the public.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

There were no samples taken by the Local Authority for analysis and none for bacteriological examination.

The services of a Veterinary Surgeon are called in when required. There was no disease during 1919 traced to the milk supply.

The number of cowkeepers in the district is estimated at 135, and the number registered at 90. All cowkeepers ought to be registered. Six cowkeepers are milk sellers also. There are no cases of purveyors other than by cowkeepers. The approximate number of milch cows in the district is 2,250.

Under this heading I received on December 27th a note from the Medical Officer of Health of Manchester that there was a cow at one of the farms in Rimington suffering from Tuberculosis which was in same shippin as other milch cows and had been inspected by Veterinary Surgeon from Manchester. On visiting I found the cow had been sold to a Clitheroe butcher the previous day and passed through the Clitheroe Auction Mart on the day of my visit. I communicated with the Medical Officer of Health for Clitheroe, but in the meantime the cow had been purchased by someone in Blackburn and immediately despatched there. By quick transit similar to this, all trace of an infected cow can easily be lost sight of. I consider such action a very grave danger, and heavy penalties ought to be inflicted in similar cases. The very least that ought to be done, if there is any conscience shown,

is to have the cow at the time of slaughter inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon sent by the Local Authority.

#### OTHER FOODS.

No samples were taken, and there were no seizures of unsound food.

The number of slaughter-houses in the district is six, all of which are registered and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

I have in former years commented on the advisability of inspecting all animals both before and after being slaughtered.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are three Factories and twenty-seven Workshops in the district.

Previously I have mentioned the improvement that is likely to be made in the closet accommodation at the two mills in Grindleton when the sewerage scheme is completed. This scheme has been a long time delayed, and great benefit will be likely to accrue from it.

#### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

The work is undertaken by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Burrow. There are no other officers engaged in the work. Previously I had the assistance of an assistant Sanitary Inspector, but he resigned to take up another post, and no one has been appointed in his stead. This is very urgent, and I hope I may have additional assistance. The work is not in such a healthy condition as it ought to be, and as there are several urgent questions under consideration, it would enable me to get more reliable data than will be possible at present. In my Housing Report it will be seen how far behindhand all the work is. Secondary to this, one would like to overhaul the question of the milk supply, and inspect all cowsheds and generally estimate the conditions in which milk is collected and distributed in this and other districts.

I consider this latter subject plays an all too unimportant part in the public health, and when the Housing Question is well on its way for solution it is to be hoped that this question of the milk supply may be thoroughly and very systematically gone into.

There is no hospital in the district. Your Council, up to now, have jointly with the Borough of Clitheroe and the Rural District Council of Clitheroe had a temporary structure for use in the event of any outbreak of small-pox. I see the other two local authorities have entered into fresh arrangements. I think the best arrangement that could be made is, as I have seen in the minutes of one of your meetings, to enter into agreement with a larger authority to admit all cases of small-pox should an outbreak arise. There may be no cases in the district, but the disease, should it occur, leaves such serious effects, that money for any such emergency is always very profitably and well spent.

There have been no Local Acts, Special Local Orders or General Adoptive Acts brought into force during the year.

All specimens for chemical and bacteriological examination may be forwarded to the County Medical Officer. None were sent during the year.

#### OTHER SERVICES.

All cases of Venereal disease may be sent to any of the following Hospitals for diagnosis and treatment:—The Bradford Royal Infirmary, Dewsbury Infirmary, Halifax, Leeds, Sheffield, and York Hospitals.

The only connection the Council has with any other authority is that most of its members are members of the Clitheroe Board of Guardians, and thus help to administer the Poor Law of the district.

#### SPECIAL REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS.

There have been none during the year.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied whenever required. I should like to point out that a supply can be obtained any time, as on behalf of your Council I have possession of a quantity of the serum which is always ready for use.

There have been no cases of Encephalitis lethargica in the district during the year, and no "return" cases of scarlet fever.

No cases of Dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified.

From the short time I have been able to judge, the notification of Pneumonia—this was not so previous to my joining the Army—is of immense help in that the seriousness of the disease is brought home to the patients and those concerned more fully. It also emphasises the fact that very careful nursing and attention is essential in these cases. As regards the nursing arrangements for a large and scattered district like this, I cannot say I consider we have reached that stage of perfection which one hopes for. In any scheme for the supply of nurses—and this applies to non-infectious diseases as well as infectious—the only reasonable plan is a process of "dilution." Often in certain areas there may be a large amount of sickness, whilst in a neighbouring one there is little or none at all. The scheme I have in mind, would be for the County Authority to have the greater control of the nurses in the whole of its administrative area, for a number of nurses to reside in certain parts of the district, but with the proviso that if there were very little sickness in their area, they might be temporarily moved to some other area where their services would be of considerable benefit, and frequently greatly appreciated.

Every possible care is taken to disinfect premises when there has been any infectious disease. In this area the minimum period of isolation is by no means strictly adhered to. To give an example, in a case of Scarlet Fever the patient was allowed freedom at the end of three weeks.

Everyone, at least most people, know the accepted period for complete isolation of this disease is six weeks. I am sorry sterner measures were not taken, as the evidence was complete, and continued and repeated warnings will not help us to stamp out these localised epidemics as soon as would be the case if sterner measures were taken.

I find there is not any delay in notifying cases of Tuberculosis. The only serious defect is that frequently one gets report and neither age nor sex is given, and this is essential for the County Authority, as all such particulars are forwarded to it to be tabulated.

Details of the cases of Infectious Disease, notified during the year, are as follows:—

I find 40 cases were notified.

In 29 of the cases, 17 males and 12 females were affected.

These 40 cases consisted of two cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Diphtheria, one of Puerperal Fever, one of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, twenty of Measles, four of Malaria, six of Pneumonia, one of Tuberculosis, and four of Whooping Cough.

There was a case of a non-resident who had lived in the district for a short time who, immediately on returning home developed Scarlet Fever. Proper precautions were taken, and no cases resulted therefrom.

During the year, in addition to the six cases of Pneumonia notified, five persons who died as a result of the disease had not been notified. This makes the total number of actual cases for the year as eleven.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever is similar to 1918.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Two cases were notified in the last quarter of the year. Both of these occurred in the same household in the Gisburn district. It was found on investigation that the source of



infection arose from coming in contact with children—who had only been isolated for three weeks—from a neighbouring farm in an adjoining rural area.

Since this date there have been several other cases reported, when the parents seem to think they are being unnecessarily put to hardship, instead of looking at it from a public point of view and thus saving other people great inconvenience and anxiety—and probably themselves similar anxiety—as a great number of these children, if not isolated for the proper period, are liable to get serious complications which may greatly handicap them in the future. In one such case, facts which could not be refuted were brought to the notice of your Council, but I consider it would have been advisable to have taken a more serious action in the case and thus help some of us to carry on the work successfully. There is an impression abroad that parents have a right to do almost as they like—nobody else is considered; but the sooner they are disillusioned the better it will be for everybody.

In addition to the two cases reported, I received a note from the Medical Officer of Health of Nelson that a child had been temporarily residing in the district and on her return home developed the disease. Every precaution was taken at this house in the District, and I am glad to say no additional cases were traced from there.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

In the third quarter one case was notified; I find no particulars of origin of disease.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of one case have been given during the year. This occurred in male over 50 years of age, and was the pulmonary type of the disease. This was notified to the County Medical Officer, as is usual in these cases. This solitary case occurred in the Slaidburn district.

I have no records of any admissions into Sanatoria during the year. On being notified of the case of Tuberculosis, the house was visited, leaflets supplied and disinfectants given as required.

During the year the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1918, which were purely a war measure, have been rescinded.

#### PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.

One case was reported during the year from the Slaidburn district.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There was also a case of this disease in the Slaidburn district. Full facts and figures were given to the County Medical Officer.

Application was immediately made to the Ribblesdale Nursing Association for a nurse, so that mother and child could have every attention, and everything possible was done.

#### MEASLES.

There were 20 cases during the year reported, 19 in the Gisburn and one in the Clitheroe districts. These affected the attendance at Bolton-by-Bowland, Lane Ends, Tosside, Grindleton, and Rimington schools, all of which are in the Gisburn District of Bowland. Of these it was only found essential to close the schools in two cases, viz., at Bolton-by-Bowland and Lane Ends schools.

People are supposed to give sex and age in every case of measles upon notification. The former was only given in 14 and the latter in 7 cases. Of these, 6 males and 8 females were reported. Of the seven cases, two occurred in children of 5 years and under, and two in children of 10 years and under.

## MALARIA.

Four cases occurred in the Gisburn District, and in each case a returned soldier was affected.

## PNEUMONIA.

This disease is still notifiable. Six cases were reported, two of which were fatal. I find, in addition, that five others occurred in the district, all of which were fatal, but none of these were reported.

In every case of Pneumonia skilled nursing is absolutely essential, but it is not always easy to obtain this, as, naturally, all these cases arise very suddenly, and the nurses may be engaged elsewhere.

I think the system of providing nurses is often inefficient. Frequently one finds the case of less urgency taking the place of something very much more serious. Largely it resolves itself into the fact that voluntary organisation looks after its individual members in the first instance, and these members very naturally consider they ought to have every benefit possible. But there is a broader aspect to all this question. Skilled nursing is realised to be a successful help in bringing back to convalescence any case of serious illness, no question of funds therefore ought to arise. I am absolutely convinced that the only reasonable starting-point to deal with this is for the public bodies to take up the complete administration.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease is notifiable in the District. Four cases were reported to me by the School Attendance Officer, but I find that the cases were more numerous than this, as Whitewell school was closed for three weeks owing to an epidemic of the disease, and that seven families out of twelve were affected.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

These cases are not very numerous in your district. I

find there is extreme diffidence in undergoing the proper treatment essential for the cure of all these cases. The questions of privacy and "of not being found out" are greatly the cause of this. At the present time it appears to me that the question of the individual is considered at the expense of the community. Whilst in the Army this confirmed my opinion. Nothing can be done satisfactorily until it is realised that the community must come first in regard to anything that may affect it, and I only hope that before long this attitude will be taken up, and I have not the least hesitation in saying that we are as near stamping out this disease as ever we were until this is done. The distress and suffering it consciously and unconsciously brings to very many families and their descendants is appalling. Without a doubt, numbers of children would be in a much healthier state now if the question was more seriously tackled.

#### SMALL-POX.

There have been no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

During the year rabies was prevalent in several parts of the country; fortunately there were no cases of dog-bite notified to me. Had any arisen, there were various centres throughout the country for its treatment.

During the year the Army Council placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Health a stock of Tetanus Antitoxin. This was placed in the charge of the County Medical Officer, but fortunately there was no need to make application for a supply of the same.

All cases of Foot and Mouth Disease must be reported to the Local Authority. This is very important in regard to the meat supply.

It was supposed not at all unlikely that there might be another severe epidemic of Influenza. The Ministry of Health issued certain leaflets giving full particulars of the precautions that ought to be taken for the prevention and treatment of the disease. Your Council has very fully advertised these. One important fact brought out in these instructions is that a vaccine, which is very beneficial if the cases are taken early enough, will be supplied in the event of any outbreak.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The inspection of midwives is largely undertaken by the County Authorities. There is no scheme for attending to the health of the expectant mothers and children under five years of age in this district. The only help we have is that of notification of births and the assistance of the Ribblesdale Nursing Association in attending after the child is born. This is by no means sufficient at the present day, and one hopes to see some scheme whereby expectant mothers as well as mothers in child-bed may have every attention. I have advocated for some little time the formation of a maternity centre in the district.

#### MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN IN CHILDREN AND IN INFANTS.

There were three deaths in children under one year of age. This gives an infantile mortality of 30 as compared with 28 for last year, and 57 for 1917. One child was a few hours old, and an inquest was held in this case. The others were aged four days and 17 days respectively.

I mentioned in last year's report that certain arrangements may be made either by definite order or by voluntary arrangements (where a maternity centre is carried on by some voluntary association) whereby a supply of food to expectant mothers and milk to children in necessitous cases might be given.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## BIRTH RATE.

The Registrar General's figures of the number of Births are 49 males and 39 females, giving a total of 98.

I am given 5,302 as the total population in the district, and this gives a Birth Rate of 18.48 per thousand, being an increase on last year, when it was 14.35. Six of the births were illegitimate (four males and two females). This year the Birth Rate is above the average for the last five years, *i.e.*, 16.37.

The Birth Rate throughout England and Wales was 18.5.

## DEATH RATE.

The returns of the Registrar General show me that 57 persons (28 males and 29 females) usually resident in the district have died during the year. Five of the cases died outside the district, but were deaths of persons usually resident in the district. There were two deaths reported of persons in the district whose permanent residence was in another district.

The number of the civilian population being 5,090, we thus get a Death Rate of 11.19 per thousand. This is the lowest for the last five years with the exception of 1916, when it was 10.08, and is less than the average for the last five years, 12.18.

The Death Rate throughout England and Wales was 13.8.

Five inquests were held during the year; one of these on a person not ordinarily resident in the district. One death was uncertified. Four deaths resulted from tuberculosis (two males and two females). Six deaths resulted from influenza, four from Pneumonia, nine from Heart Disease, and two from Cancer.

One of the deaths, a child under one year of age, resulted from Pneumonia.

ITALY STATISTICS

BIRTH RATE

The Registrar General's report of the number of births in the district during the year 1925 shows a total of 2,842 births, being an increase on last year, when it was 2,752. Six of the births were illegitimate (four males and two females). This year the birth rate is above the average for the last five years, 1920-24, 19.37.

The birth rate throughout England and Wales was 18.2.

DEATH RATE

The figures of the Registrar General show that 27 persons (25 males and 2 females) usually resident in the district have died during the year. Five of the cases died outside the district, but were deaths of persons usually resident in the district. There were two deaths reported of persons in the district whose permanent residence was in another district.

The number of the civilian population being 2,000, we thus get a death rate of 1.10 per thousand. This is the lowest for the last five years with the exception of 1921 when it was 1.08, and is less than the average for the last five years, 1.18.

The death rate throughout England and Wales was 1.14.

Five deaths were held during the year; one of these was a person not usually resident in the district. One death was unaccounted for. Two deaths resulted from influenza (one male and two females). Six deaths resulted from influenza (one male and two females) and one from Heart Disease, and two from Cancer.

One of the deaths, a child under one year of age, resulted from pneumonia.

BOWLAND  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**HOUSING REPORT**

For 1919.

W. HODGSON ROSS.

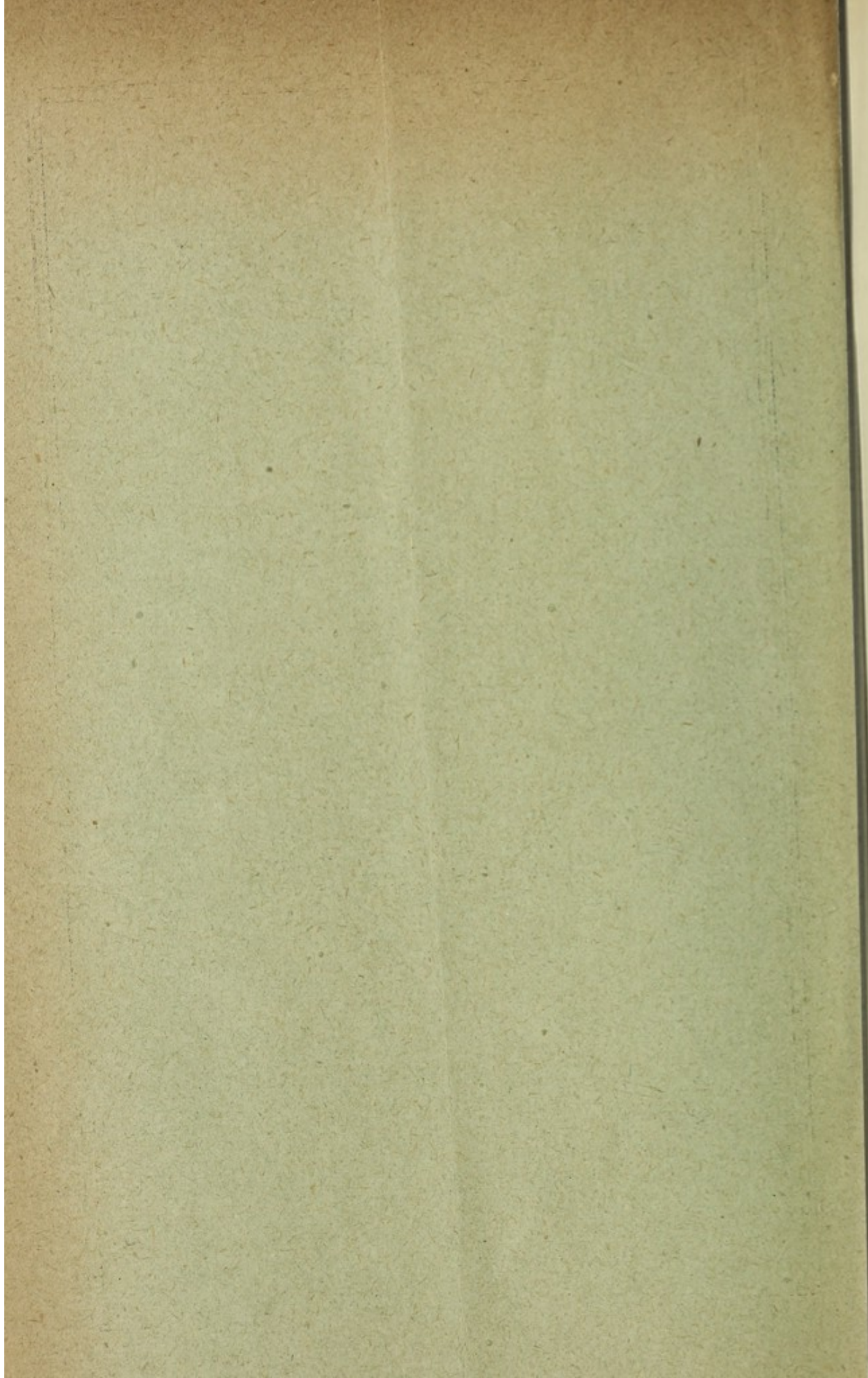
Medical Officer of Health.

Meadow Bank,  
Chatburn,  
April 3rd, 1920.

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THOS. STONES, Printer, Castle Street, Clitheroe.





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Rowland Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Council.

Gentlemen,

Differing from previous years, the Ministry of Health requests that the Housing Report be given as a separate report. I did not resume my duties until November, 1919, and have, therefore, had to rely on data given me. You will know my present difficulties owing to my disabilities as a result of serving in France.

I only hope it may be possible to give me the extra assistance required, and that marked progress may be made in connection with the Housing Question in this and succeeding years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. HODGSON ROSS.

Meadow Bank,  
Chatburn,  
April 3rd, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Council,

During the past year the Ministry of Health  
has been engaged in the study of the  
various aspects of the health of the  
people and the means of improving it.  
The results of this study are set out  
in the following report.

The first part of the report deals with  
the general state of the health of the  
people and the various causes of  
illness and death.

Yours faithfully,  
W. HODGSON, ROSS

Bowland Rural District Council.

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# HOUSING REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health.

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This has been dealt with very exhaustively in my previous reports. I must say I should like to see more energy in dealing with the serious shortage of houses. To my mind, there is far too much time spent in the initial stages, drawing plans, choosing and buying sites, etc., etc. But I am glad to say a beginning has been made. A site has been chosen for each of the villages of Grindleton, Gisburn, and West Bradford. The total area of these sites is  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres, and estimating 8 houses to the acre this only allows of a possible 22 houses being built if the regulations are adhered to.

Before entering into details, I should like to give an estimate of the houses as not reasonably fit for human habitation as thirty-eight (38), and totally unfit for human habitation as sixteen (16), and houses with minor defects as one hundred and seventy (170). These figures, you will agree, are surprising. Being away for so long, I have been unable to collect all data as fully as I should have liked, but these numbers can be taken as fairly correct, and probably under-estimate rather than over-estimate the actual figures.

Dealing with the problem as a whole, there are only two objections to any Housing Scheme; one is the financial side, and the other is the shortage of labour.

The former resolves itself, as I contend, if the environment of the individual is of importance—and it undoubtedly is—this side of the question is of very small importance. I certainly think every possible economy should be taken, but, if the health of the population can be improved, a question of the amount of money spent, if wisely and properly spent, ought not to be taken into account where the life of the people is at stake.

As regards the shortage of labour, this is a different matter, and is a very serious question. It may not be quite so important in a district like the Bowland Rural District, but it is still very urgent. Had we been at war, everybody would have to do his portion, and I do not hesitate to say that where the well-being of the whole population is in the melting-pot, every means possible ought to be taken to overcome this shortage. Everybody agrees that there is a shortage of houses all over the country, with very few exceptions, but we are still as near the completion of any scheme as ever we were. I, personally, cannot see any great progress being made, and in the course of a few years it will have to be made, or other serious questions will arise which will hurt the country far more than any war we may have had or ever may have. I only hope the Bowland Rural Council will definitely commit itself to some scheme and get the work commenced, as there is absolutely no doubt that in certain parts of the district houses are very badly and urgently needed.

I will now cull a few points from a manual issued by the Ministry of Health. In any scheme, if the work is planned according to a scheduled time, only a penny rate is levied.

A complete survey of all houses has to be made by October 31st, 1920. I, unfortunately, am as yet handicapped to some extent, but it will be imperative, if minute and correct statistics are to be worked out, that extra assistance for the Sanitary Inspector and myself must be supplied. This

assistance can be obtained by appointing another official or by asking the Housing Commissioner for one of the inspectors to help in the inspection of the district. The latter appears the only course open to me, and I have no desire to take up any course hastily, but it is absolutely essential to get complete records of all the houses in the district. This has not been done, but sufficient has been done to ascertain that there is a shortage of houses, and also that some of the existing houses ought to be immediately closed, or at the best a serious attempt should be made to remedy the defects, which are very serious in some cases.

By October 31st, 1920, a definite scheme for all remedial purposes must be made, and by July 31st, 1920, this scheme must be submitted to the Ministry of Health. Particulars of one part of the district should be submitted by January 31st, 1920, another by April 3rd, 1920, and the last by July 31st, 1920. This scheme applies to unhealthy areas, but not to unfit houses. There is naturally from the great scarcity of houses some discretion necessary in evicting a person from a house which is not habitable. This, to my mind, nullifies the whole scheme and is a serious flaw. It would be hard to overcome this, as no one desires to cause hardship to anyone at present inhabiting unfit houses.

It does not necessarily mean that any scheme must be unduly and unnecessarily delayed. All houses that can be, ought to be remedied without the removal of the tenants.

The Ministry of Health applies two standards to houses, one where the house is quite fit for human habitation, and the second where there are certain marked privileges which greatly help towards the comfort and happiness of the families inhabiting the houses. Obviously, the latter is the ideal and only reasonable standard; but, if this standard were applied to your district and others controlled by other Local Authorities, very few of the existing houses would remain.

The Ministry of Health defines a fit house as being :—

- (1) Free from dampness.
- (2) Satisfactorily lighted and ventilated.
- (3) Properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposing of slop-water.
- (4) In good general repair.

In addition, it should have :—

- (5) A satisfactory water supply.
- (6) Adequate washing accommodation.
- (7) Adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food.
- (8) A well-ventilated store for food.

Perhaps in years to come one may see people living in suitable houses, and not, as in some cases, in the miserable hovels they do now.

I will give one requirement, *e.g.*, to get proper light and ventilation. Each window of every room ought to equal one-tenth of the floor space. I am sorry to say that it would not be very difficult to find a large percentage of houses which do not fulfil this.

Before giving certain facts and figures which have been supplied to me, I should like to refer to some other points in regard to any suggested "Housing Scheme."

An Ideal House ought to have at least three bedrooms, one large living-room, scullery and bathroom, and four hundred (400) square yards of garden. The Penny rate that may be levied would give for this district two hundred pounds (£200); not a big sum for the benefits that would accrue. The main loan is made by the Government, and is repayable over a period of eighty years.

I notice that at your meeting on September 9th the Gisburn site was recommended by the Housing Commissioner for approval. Also at this meeting, in regard to the shortage of houses at West Bradford, your Council asked the Parish Council to give its views on a suitable site. I notice the following remark is reported to have been made by one of your members at your meeting on Saturday, June 7th. This was in commenting on my report of the previous year: "He is going to condemn houses and create a demand. Are we forced to build?" Had not some similar remark been made in this connection at a later meeting, I should have hesitated to have referred to it.

In the first place, I strongly object to the innuendo that the inspection has been biassed and done with unworthy motives, or shall I say more correctly the results of the inspection. Surely there has been ample opportunity to refute any statements of mine made in previous years, but this has not been done. Anyone will agree that the housing has not been by any means perfect, and that it has been very difficult to make progress in any direction. I will say no more about it in this connection, but I think when judgment is passed on one's opinions and one's findings in an atmosphere similar to this, and before sifting out the facts and figures, it is appalling.

These Housing Acts are in force, and whether agreeable or no, they must be carried out. They are eventually for the public health and welfare, and very few people would disagree with this nowadays. One at least does not mind fair and just criticism—it is always a healthy instrument if properly used; but one does object to insinuations that one is the cause of the scarcity. Statements like this do no good to anyone, not even to the person who makes them. In discussing questions of public health one tries to come to a proper and right conclusion and to create nothing simulating a political atmosphere. The responsibility for such an action to the community is a very great one. Very little progress can be made until an impartial view is taken of all public questions. I will leave the matter at that, and only hope that in the future no similar mis-statement will be made,



and that proper help be given instead of wild statements to the gallery.

During the year I received a note from a tenant in regard to a house which was recommended several years ago for a "Closing Order." I was incapacitated at the time, but hope measures will be taken in regard to it at an early date.

I, as you know, was absent the larger part of the year, but will attempt to arrange the facts and figures given me for the work done during the year.

There has been no building of houses, working-class or otherwise, during the year. The number remains at a stationary figure, and is 1,150). The estimated civilian population for the year is five thousand and ninety (5,090); for 1918 it was four thousand nine hundred and eleven (4,911), giving an increase of one hundred and seventy-nine (179).

In my previous reports I mentioned there was a shortage of houses at Gisburn, West Bradford, and Grindleton. There are schemes for these three townships. Six houses are to be erected at Gisburn, six at Grindleton, and four at West Bradford. I do not consider the number sufficient, but progress may be made later now the elementary fact that there is a real and pressing need for houses is admitted, and that is the case. The only fault one has to find with any scheme is, that it might be pushed forward with a little more energy. One cannot say that any headway is made until the foundations of these houses are laid, and I do not think there is much improvement, and conditions are much the same, unless we get the schemes immediately carried into effect—in fact, a scheme in the air is little better than no scheme at all.

Five hundred and seventy-four (574) houses have been inspected during the year. Eight houses were found to be overcrowded, and forty-two were found to be defective, which equals 7.3% of houses inspected. A great proportion of these have been previously inspected, and it is impossible to give a correct number of houses not yet inspected in the district. Full particulars of houses inspected previous to my going on military service will be found in my Annual Reports for 1914, 1915, and 1916. I may have cause to refer to these

reports later, but I propose to deal with the five hundred and seventy-four (574) houses inspected during the year on the figures given me.

Of these 574 houses—

13	had one bedroom.
214	had two bedrooms.
211	had three bedrooms.
95	had four bedrooms.
16	had five bedrooms.
25	had six bedrooms and over.

---

Total ... 574

It will be seen that there are, out of the 574 houses inspected, 227 with only two bedrooms and less, which is a percentage of 39.5 of the houses inspected.

I have appended a Table (F), giving number of occupants in the houses with one, two, and three bedrooms. There is no doubt, on looking at these figures, that there are serious cases of overcrowding; it would need a further inspection to deal with these.

One of the houses with one bedroom has three occupants; another, four. Of the houses with two bedrooms, I find there are fifteen with five occupants, six with six, six with seven, and three with eight.

Of the houses with three bedrooms, there are six with seven occupants, four with eight, one with nine, and one with eleven.

These figures affect 44 houses.

As the total number of houses inspected during 1919 with one, two, and three bedrooms is four hundred and thirty-eight (438), we get a possible 10% of these houses overcrowded. Some of them, from my visits before I took a Commission in the Army, I found very bad indeed, but as no exact data have been given me, I am obliged to make several inferences, and only hope in the near future I shall be able to visit these houses or depute someone to do so on my behalf. These figures only refer to the number of occu-

pants; but there are numerous houses that are unfit for habitation owing to dampness and other defects. I am afraid very little has been done to repair even the minor defects; in fact it has been a "go-as-you-please" policy.

One must see from the table that the following houses must be very large indeed to be fit for habitation, viz. : The house with one bedroom and four occupants, the three houses with two bedrooms and eight occupants, and the house with three bedrooms and eleven occupants. In one of the houses I inspected in 1917 I found it had eight occupants and two bedrooms. I also found that one of the rooms was open to the roof, and the whole family occupied the other bedroom. I do not know whether anything has been done in this case, but I think it is a serious condition of affairs.

I have quoted enough to state that the houses are generally in a bad condition and that there is a great shortage.

Appended is another Table (G), which will show that of the 13 houses with one bedroom :—

3	are situated in Bolton-by-Bowland.
3	are situated in Gisburn.
1	is situated in Grindleton.
1	is situated in Mytton.
1	is situated in Newsholme.
2	are situated in Rimington.
2	are situated in Waddington.

On looking at this table the number of houses inspected in the various townships will be seen. As stated previously, no measures have been taken during the year to deal with overcrowding.

In my 1916 report I stated there had been five hundred and thirty-four (534) houses inspected, and of these 6% had serious defects, and 32% minor defects, giving a total of 38% defective. I do not think this figure will be underestimated for the year 1919, in which five hundred and

seventy-four (574) houses were inspected. (I have stated in a previous portion of my report that 7.3% of houses inspected in 1919 were found to be defective.)

In my 1916 report I gave particulars of houses with ground floor alone, which were 41 in number; with first floor the number was 361, and with second floor it was 31. Some of the houses inspected that year having been again visited this year, it is, therefore, difficult to give exact figures, but I imagine the numbers will be very similar. In that report I found that of these there were 46 with one bedroom, 174 with two bedrooms, and 147 with three bedrooms. One thus sees that the houses with one bedroom are many more in number than the 13 inspected in 1919, and shows a very serious state of affairs.

From the 1916 and the 1919 figures, there are at least 46 houses with one bedroom, 214 with two bedrooms, and 211 with three bedrooms and possibly more, and we get a total with not more than two bedrooms of 260 out of a total of 1,150 houses in the district.

I will be appending a Table (E) showing the main defects found in the houses inspected during the year; but in 1916 among the houses inspected I found 12 required back-doors, in 12 the drainage was bad, and 12 had bad condition of walls, etc.

If Table (G) is referred to, it will be seen that of the 214 houses found to have only two bedrooms, 20 are in Bolton-by-Bowland, 28 at West Bradford, 20 at Gisburn, 34 at Grindleton, and 41 at Waddington. Therefore in these five townships there are 163 houses with only two bedrooms.

I estimate the number of houses

in Bolton-by-Bowland	as	158
in West Bradford	as	80
in Gisburn	as	110
in Grindleton	as	150
in Waddington	as	160

(These figures include the outlying farm-houses.)

Thus the houses with two bedrooms and less

are 23 in Bolton-by-Bowland	out of a total of 158.
are 28 in West Bradford	out of a total of 80.
are 23 in Gisburn	out of a total of 110.
are 35 in Grindleton	out of a total of 150.
are 43 in Waddington	out of a total of 160.

It certainly is a surprising number in a beautiful district like Bowland, and I think I have said enough to show the importance of the Housing Question as it affects this district.

It is likely that urgent schemes will be made in the future, but any amount of schemes do not alter the situation in the least; it is actual work that requires to be done. It is also essential to try and remedy the minor defects that have been found. It depends entirely on the Local Authority to see all necessary defects are remedied, and I imagine that not one per cent. of the houses, if the facts were gone into, have been remedied during the last five or six years; this includes minor as well as serious defects.

The day is past when we must be content with the present order of things. With the progress of education, habitable surroundings and a healthy environment are essential, otherwise it will be useless and a waste of money to the nation. Many things are more essential than wealth, and I contend that to rear and have a healthy race and help people in every way, will go to the benefit of the race as well as to the individual.

Besides the Tables mentioned, there will be some dealing with Section 17 of the Act of 1909, and the Acts of 1890 and 1919.

In Table (D) it will be seen there are four obstructive buildings in the district. No action has been taken in regard to these. At the present it will be a difficult question to deal with these as one ought, but their presence will not be lost sight of. They, needless to say, are unhealthy, and I hope some scheme may be arranged later in regard to them.

In Table (A) it will be seen that no complaints were made by householders, and none under Section 31 (1) of the Act of 1890 and Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act.

Again in Table (C) the fact is pointed out, that no notices for repairs were issued, none were carried out by the Local Authority, or voluntarily by individuals owning the houses.

TABLE (A).

NUMBER OF DWELLING-HOUSES OF WHICH COMPLAINTS WERE MADE THAT THEY ARE UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION :—

(a) by householders .....	Nil
(b) under Section 31 (1) of the Act of 1890 and Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act of 1894 .....	Nil

TABLE (B).

The Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909 .....	574
The Number of Dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation .....	8
The Number of representations made to the Local Authorities with a view to the making of Closing Orders .....	6
The Number of Closing Orders made .....	Nil
The Number of Dwelling-houses the Defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders .....	Nil
The Number of Dwelling-houses which, after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for Human Habitation .....	Nil
The number of Demolition Orders made .....	Nil
The Number of Dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily .....	Nil

TABLE (C).

UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE HOUSING ACTS OF 1919 :—

(a) Number of orders for repairs issued ...	Nil
(b) Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by Local Authority .....	Nil
(c) Number of Dwelling-houses voluntarily closed on notice by order that they could not be made fit without reconstruction ...	Nil

TABLE (D).

## OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

Number of representations made under Section 38 of the Housing Act of 1890 .....	4
Number of Buildings demolished .....	Nil
Number of representations still under consideration .....	Nil

TABLE (E).

## TABLE SHOWING DEFECTS.

Defective Roof .....	102
Defective Floor .....	32
Defective Eaves and Spouting .....	42
Defective Windows .....	42
No Dustbin .....	36
Defective Ceiling .....	8
Extra Closet needed .....	11
Overcrowding .....	8

The Staff engaged in Housing work are myself and Mr. Burrow, the Sanitary Inspector, who also holds the position of Surveyor to the Council.

TABLE (F).

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS IN ONE,  
TWO, AND THREE-ROOMED HOUSES :—

No. of Occupants:	Houses with 1 Bedroom.	House with 2 Bedrooms.	Houses with 3 Bedrooms.
One	5	39	20
Two	6	69	40
Three	1	37	62
Four	1	39	40
Five		15	26
Six		6	11
Seven		6	6
Eight		3	4
Nine			1
Ten			
Eleven			1
No. of Houses inspected in 1919 .....	13	214	211
Total No. of 1, 2, & 3 roomed Houses in- spected .....	438		



TABLE (G).

TOTAL No. OF HOUSES INSPECTED—574.

NUMBER OF ROOMS IN GROUND FLOOR.	TOWNSHIP.										NUMBER OF BEDROOMS.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more.	1	2	3	4	5 or more.	Total No. of Houses Inspected.	
Bashall Eaves .....	0	4	6	4	1	0	0	6	5	4	0	15	
Bolton-by-Bowland ...	3	20	18	8	1	3	2	33	10	5	3	53	
Bowland Forest H.D. ..	0	5	9	3	0	1	1	8	5	2	2	18	
Bowland Forest L.D. ..	0	7	3	3	0	0	0	8	3	1	1	13	
West Bradford .....	0	28	8	6	2	1	0	24	14	4	3	45	
Easington .....	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	6	
Gisburn .....	3	20	21	17	1	4	4	13	26	19	4	56	
Gisburn Forest .....	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	5	
Grindleton .....	1	34	31	15	1	1	3	44	28	5	3	83	
Horton .....	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	5	
Middop .....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Mytton .....	1	4	7	3	0	1	0	9	3	2	2	16	
Newsholme .....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Newton .....	0	6	4	3	1	2	2	7	1	5	1	16	
Paythorne .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Rimington .....	2	15	15	7	3	1	1	19	14	6	3	43	
Sawley .....	0	12	9	3	2	0	0	11	11	2	2	26	
Slaidburn .....	0	15	21	12	2	5	3	29	14	4	5	55	
Waddington .....	2	41	51	8	1	2	3	39	52	7	4	105	
	13	214	211	95	16	25	21	253	193	72	35	574	

# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

PRESENTED TO THE

BRACEBRIDGE

**Urban District Council**

BY

PERCY SHARP,

L.R.C.P. & L.S.A. (LOND.) M.R.C.S. (ENG.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Annual Report of the Board of Health

# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1918

BRACELAND

Board of Health

PERCY SHARP

Printed by the Board of Health

# Bracebridge Urban District Council.

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**Chairman :**

MR. W. J. MODERN, J.P.

**Vice-Chairman :**

MR. W. COULSON

**Members :**

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MR. J. C. COUPLAND  
MR. HARRISON  
MR. KERRY

MR. J. H. LEACHMAN  
MR. T. NOWELL  
MR. J. H. SOWDEN  
MR. G. TAYLOR  
MR. A. J. TUTTELL

**SANITARY COMMITTEE :**

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MR. T. NOWELL

**Members :**

MESSRS. TUTTELL, MODERN, BROWN, COULSON, HARRISON

**Clerk :**

W. M. PHILLIPS, 34 Silver Street, Lincoln

**Medical Officer of Health :**

PERCY SHARP, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.  
The Brooklands, Swallowbeck, Lincoln

**Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances :**

K. S. BAYNE, Alma Villa, Bracebridge.

Harvard University Council

Resolved, That the Council do hereby

authorize the President to

appoint a committee

to inquire into

the

conduct of the

President in the

exercise of his

official duties

and to report to the Council

as soon as

practicable

and

to cause a copy of this resolution to be printed

and

to be distributed to the members of the Council

and to the members of the Senate

and to the members of the Faculty

and to the members of the Board of Overseas

and to the members of the Corporation

and to the members of the University

## TO THE Bracebridge Urban District Council

---

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you herewith my Annual Report on the Bracebridge Urban District for the year 1919.

Your District is a small one, having an area of 348 acres and being partly Urban and partly Rural in character.

The District is a narrow one, being bounded on the East by the Great Northern Railway and on the West by the River Witham, and consists of one long street (High Street) which is continuous with Newark Road, Lincoln, and from which a number of short blind ended streets radiate on either side. The population at 1911 Census was 2281; it is now estimated at 2500.

The district consists almost entirely of working-class dwelling-houses, small shops, etc., but also contains the Gas Works and Tramway Depot and Sheds of the Lincoln Corporation. Probably most of the people resident in the district are employed in the Gas Works and Tram system of the Lincoln Corporation, or else in the large factories and engineering works in the adjoining City.

The Water Supply is in the main derived from and is the same as that supplied to the City of Lincoln and is constant.

There are, however, about a dozen wells, 9 of which are in the rural part of the district. No cases of contamination of water supply have come to my notice during the year.

The River Witham, as stated, forms one boundary of the district and I do not know of any pollution during this part of its course. The drains and sewers are for the most part in a very satisfactory condition,

the sewerage being dealt with by Lincoln Corporation. The closet accommodation of the district is gradually being improved and water closets are being installed to replace the old style privy vaults, which are being done away with. Four new ones were provided during the year. There remain, however, about 20 pail-closets and two hundred privy vaults—of the latter 21 being under notice for conversion. Scavenging is carried out by contract—what nightsoil there is being taken out of the district and used on land. Some small amount of ashes however,, are dumped on vacant land in the district.

I enclose the Report of your Sanitary Inspector, with reference to premises visited, action taken in respect of nuisances, etc. I accompanied him on various occasions in making inspections in the district ; while at other times nuisances, etc., come under my notice in the course of my daily work in the district and are reported to him to be dealt with.

There are no “ Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.”

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools is fairly satisfactory. The Schools were closed during 1919 on account of Infectious Diseases, as follows :—

	From	To	On account of
Boys' School	5 March	17 March	Influenza
Girls' School	5 March	17 March	Influenza
Infants' School	5 March	17 March	Influenza
Infants' School	15 Dec.	19 Dec.	Measles

*Milk Supply.* There are four Cow-keepers in the District whose premises are regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory. There has been no question arisen as to the wholesomeness of the milk supplied, but the District suffered somewhat—in common with the rest of the country—from the general shortage which was experienced.

*Milk (Mothers and Children Order, 1918).* The Council instructed me to act at my discretion should necessitous cases be brought to my notice, but no applications were made to me under this Order.

*Other Foods.* Two samples of food were taken by the County Police, both being found genuine. There are two bakehouses, both of which are periodically inspected and are kept in good order.

Only one Slaughter-house in the District is in use, its condition is satisfactory.

*Infectious Diseases.* The following notifications of Infectious Disease were received during the year : 14 Diphtheria, 1 Erysipelas, 3 Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia and 1 each Malaria, Dysentery, Small Pox, and Scarlet Fever. Of the Diphtheria cases 2 were notified in January, 2 in February and 5 each in November and December. They occurred in various parts of the District and had no apparent connection one with another. 3 cases were adults and 4 were children under school age. Antitoxin is of course freely used with advantageous results. The diagnosis in these cases is generally determined bacteriologically at the Lincoln Health Office, and the absence of infection in the throat similarly determined before disinfection of the premises takes place and the patient is allowed to mix with others.

Cases of Diphtheria are frequently removed to the City Hospital for isolation and treatment where the circumstances prevent such from being adequately carried out in their own homes, or where the presence of other children in the home render this course desirable.

There were no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica in your District and only one (very mild) of Scarlet Fever.



The cases of Malaria and Dysentry (of whom the latter died) were of course contracted abroad.

There was one case of Small-Pox in the District which was removed at once to the City Isolation Hospital; two primary and two re-vaccinations in the patients' house were performed by me as soon as the case was discovered. The bedding, etc., was removed for disinfection and the house disinfected as soon as the patient was removed. No further cases arose.

There were no deaths in your District directly attributed to Influenza, though five were certified as due to Pneumonia in some form or other may and have begun as cases of Influenza or as the result of the epidemic of that disease which raged through the country during the later months of 1918.

Four cases of Tuberculosis (one surgical) were notified during 1919: 2 were accorded Hospital treatment, 1 recommended to apply for Sanatorium benefit and 1 is able to carry on work.

Cases of Tuberculosis are frequently kept under observation and treated at the Clinic and Dispensary in the City of Lincoln

No cases of Venereal Disease have been dealt with. If such arise their needs will be met by the facilities which are provided by the City or County.

Maternity and Child Welfare are matters with regard to which mothers and infants have the benefit of attending the Clinics regularly held in the adjoining City; cards of advice are sent, following on notification of births. No cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Epidemic Diarrhoea or Poliomyelitis occurred.

There are 557 houses in your District, nearly all being of the Working-Class type. None were erected during the year and none are yet in course of erection.

There is, of course, some shortage of houses and your Council has plans in hand for meeting the deficiency. There is, however, less overcrowding than there may have been, as with the discontinuance of the manufacture of munitions in the City some who resided here temporarily have left.

We have no houses in the District which are unfit for habitation, nor any specially unhealthy areas.

Some instances of overcrowding are known to exist, but there is at present no means of adequately dealing with them.

*Vital Statistics.* The total number of Births registered during 1919 was 61, of whom 3 (1 male and 2 female) were illegitimate, being at the rate of 23.51 per thousand of the estimated population. The total deaths of infants under 1 year were 5, being at the rate of 122.00 per thousand births registered. None of the deaths were of illegitimated children. The causes of these deaths were in 3 cases Broncho-Pneumonia and 1 each Gastro-Enteritis and Premature Birth.

The total deaths in the district during 1919 numbered 30, being at the rate of 12.04 per thousand of the population. An exceptionally low rate, on which I think the District may be congratulated.

The causes assigned for these deaths were:— Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4, Cancer, 1, Heart Disease 1, Bronchitis 1, Pneumonia (all forms) 5, Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1, Congenital Debility 1, Violence (accident) 1, Other Causes 13.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
PERCY SHARP.

*The Brooklands,  
Swallowbeck,  
Lincoln,*

*March, 1920*

# Inspector of Nuisances' Report

## for the year ending December 31st, 1919.

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Nuisances dealt with .. .. .	27
Nuisances reported to Council .. .. .	11
Nuisances abated by informal notices .. .. .	16
Cases in which Official Notices were issued .. .. .	11
Cases prosecuted by the Authority .. .. .	0
Nuisances unabated at the end of the year .. .. .	0
Samples of Water taken .. .. .	0
Drains cleansed or repaired .. .. .	16
New Water Closets provided .. .. .	4
Wells cleansed .. .. .	0
Wells closed .. .. .	0
New Wells provided .. .. .	0
Water Certificates granted for New Houses .. .. .	0
Houses Disinfected .. .. .	16
Schools Disinfected .. .. .	2
Cowsheds registered .. .. .	0
Cases of overcrowding abated .. .. .	0
Houses reported unfit for habitation .. .. .	0
Bakehouses inspected and found clean .. .. .	2
Buildings for which plans have been approved by the Council	0
New Houses .. .. .	0
New Water Closets .. .. .	2
Inspection of Buildings in course of construction .. .. .	1
New and other Drains tested .. .. .	4

Your obedient Servant,

K. S. BAYNE,

13 March, 1920

Inspector of Fisheries  
for the Dominion of Wales

